United Nations S/PRST/2017/17

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 September 2017

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 8045th meeting of the Security Council, held on 13 September 2017, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Guinea-Bissau", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council takes note of the briefing of 24 August 2017 on "The situation in Guinea-Bissau" of the Special Representative, Modibo Ibrahima Touré, and of the reports of the Presidents of the Sanctions Committee 2048 and of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission following their recent visits to Guinea-Bissau.

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern about the unresolved political impasse in Guinea-Bissau due to the inability of its political leaders to reach a lasting and consensual solution, as illustrated by the failure of the National Assembly to hold plenary sessions since January 2016, and by the failure of four consecutive governments to adopt their programme of work and national budget.

"The Security Council expresses concern about the negative effects of the political crisis on the civilian population in Guinea-Bissau and urges all political actors to put the interests of the people of Guinea-Bissau above all other consideration and, in this regard, calls upon Bissau-Guinean political leaders, including the President, the Speaker of Parliament and the heads of political parties, to abide by their commitment to bring political stability to Guinea-Bissau by engaging in genuine dialogue, including on the constitutional review, finding common ground for a swift resolution of the political crisis, and refraining from all rhetoric and acts likely to undermine peace and national cohesion.

"The Security Council recalls that the implementation of the Conakry Agreement of 14 October 2016, based on the ECOWAS Six-points road map entitled "Agreement on the Resolution of the Political Crisis in Guinea-Bissau", is the primary framework for a peaceful resolution of the political crisis, as it offers an historic opportunity for national authorities and political leaders, as well as civil society, jointly to ensure political stability and build sustainable peace and welcomes, in this regard, the political consultations which have taken place with the support of the Women's Group of Facilitators.

"The Security Council calls on the Guinea-Bissau leadership to implement the Conakry Agreement of 14 October 2016, including by appointing a consensus Prime Minister as required by the Agreement. The Security Council recalls that

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the implementation of the Agreement could be a way to restore the confidence of partners and enable the international community to fulfil the pledges made during the Brussels Conference in March 2015 in support of the programme "terra ranka" and for the development of Guinea-Bissau.

"The Security Council notes that while the economy may grow in 2017 — in spite of the ongoing political impasse and recurring protest movements — the root causes of instability in Guinea-Bissau remain unaddressed, meaning that any development gains made will not be sustainable.

"The Security Council stresses the need for the Government of Guinea-Bissau to continue to take concrete steps towards lasting and sustainable peace, stability and development in the country, by effectively reforming the security sector, tackling corruption through the reinforcement of the judicial system, and improving public administration and State revenue management, as well as the supply of basic services to the population, and encourages its continuous commitment to the implementation of its national priorities.

"The Security Council expresses concern over the challenges posed by terrorist threats, and other major threats, including violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism as well as international organized crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and trafficking in all forms in the country.

"The Security Council underlines, the importance of the holding of and preparations for legislative and presidential elections, currently scheduled for 2018 and 2019 respectively, in particular the updating of the voter registration list. The Security Council stresses that implementation of the Conakry Agreement will bring Guinea-Bissau closer to political stability and bolster public confidence in advance of election.

"The Security Council recalls, in this regard, the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission in supporting sustainable peace in Guinea-Bissau and welcomes its active engagement with relevant stakeholders on the ground as well as with regional organizations to support efforts towards a political solution.

"The Security Council commends the Guinea-Bissau's defence and security forces for their continued non-interference in the political situation in Guinea-Bissau, and strongly urges them to maintain the same posture.

"The Security Council welcomes the extension for an additional three months of the ECOMIB mandate as decided at the 51st Ordinary Session of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government held in Monrovia (Liberia) on 4 June 2017 and highlights the positive role of this Force in the stabilization of the country. The Security Council calls for the continuation of ECOMIB operations in Guinea-Bissau beyond this extension and invites international partners to support it in this regard.

"The Security Council welcomes the recommendations of the Final Communiqué of the above-mentioned ECOWAS Authority Session. The Security Council reiterates its commitment to continue to monitor the current political crisis and expresses its readiness to take necessary measures to respond to further worsening of the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

"The Security Council recalls its endorsement in Resolution 2343 (2017) of the strategic review regarding the need for UNIOGBIS to refocus its efforts in support of the SRSG's good offices role, and encourages the SRSG and the mission to expand its advocacy to strengthen democratic governance and the

promotion and protection of human rights in the near term while it pursues ongoing efforts to achieve an end to the political crisis, in respect of the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the country.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation and support for Special Representative Modibo Touré and all international partners as well as subregional and regional organizations, especially the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union for their continued commitment and their considerable efforts in mediation and facilitation."